An Vo

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Research Engineer @ Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI)
Tidal Building 2.10, Masdar City, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Biography

An is a Research Engineer at MBZUAI, working with Thamar Solorio. An obtained his MS from KAIST with Daeyoung Kim and Anh Totti Nguyen. During that time, An also worked closely with Mohammad Reza Taesiri. His M.S. program is fully funded by the Hyundai CMK Global Scholarship, a prestigious fully-funded scholarship for top Southeast Asian students. Prior to joining KAIST, An obtained his B.S. degree as the *valedictorian* at the Vietnam National University - Ho Chi Minh City (VNU-HCM) in 2023, where he worked with Ngoc Hoang Luong. **An is broadly interested (but not limited to) in foundation models (e.g, LLMs, VLMs), especially in making them more trustworthy and explainable in rare/hard cases.** His work has been used by Google DeepMind and ByteDance, and has been accepted at top venues: ICML, AAAI, GECCO, etc.

Education

- **Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST) [🌐]** *Feb 2024 – Feb 2026*
  M.S. in Computer Science | *Advisors: Daeyoung Kim, Anh Totti Nguyen* Daejeon, South Korea
  ◦ Thesis: Detecting and Understanding Biases in Foundation Models
- **University of Information Technology (UIT), Vietnam National University HCMC [🌐]** *Aug 2019 – Apr 2023*
  B.S. in Computer Science | *Advisor: Ngoc Hoang Luong* Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
  ◦ GPA: 9.32/10 (**Valedictorian**, #1)
  ◦ Thesis: Many-Objective Evolutionary Neural Architecture Search with Performance Predictors (10/10, **Best Thesis**)
- **Phan Ngoc Hien High School for the Gifted [🌐]** *Aug 2016 – Jul 2019*
  Specialized in Mathematics and Informatics Ca Mau, Vietnam

Experience

- **Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI) [🌐]** *Jan 2026 – Present*
  Research Enginner Abu Dhabi, UAE
  ◦ Working on Multimodal LLMs, NLP.
  ◦ Supporting the different research projects in the lab, contributing to research discussions and writing papers.
  ◦ Engaging with the larger NLP and MBZUAI community
  ◦ Advisor: Prof. Thamar Solorio
- **Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST) [🌐]** *Feb 2024 – Present*
  Graduate Research Assistant Daejeon, South Korea
  ◦ Broadly interested (but not limited to) in foundation models (e.g, LLMs, VLMs), especially in making them more trustworthy and explainable in rare/hard cases.
- **Auburn University [🌐]** *Mar 2024 – Present*
  Research Collaborator/Remote Visiting Student Remote
  ◦ Remote collaboration with Prof. Anh Totti Nguyen.
- **University of Information Technology (UIT), Vietnam National University HCMC [🌐]** *Apr 2020 – Jan 2024*
  Undergraduate Research Assistant Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
  ◦ Conducted research on Evolutionary Computation, Neural Architecture Search (NAS), Vehicle Routing Problem, and Multi-Objective Optimization.
  ◦ Developed novel algorithms to enhance the efficiency of NAS using evolutionary and other optimization algorithms.
- **ZaloPay, VNG Corporation [🌐]** *Jul 2023 – Sep 2023*
  Associate Data Scientist Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
  ◦ Led development of a Customer Lifetime Value (CLV) prediction system for 5M ZaloPay users, leveraging XGBoost/LightGBM and advanced financial feature engineering.
  ◦ Improved user segmentation and retention strategies by enabling more accurate value prediction and targeted engagement initiatives.
- **Eximbank [🌐]** *May 2023 – Jul 2023*
  Software Engineer Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
  ◦ Developed core banking modules to enhance system functionality and support business operations.
  ◦ Engineered database-ready features enabling efficient data extraction and analytics for the business team.

PUBLICATIONS

C=CONFERENCE, J=JOURNAL, P=PREPRINT

* indicates equal contribution.

Conference papers

[C.1] An Vo, Mohammad Reza Taesiri, Daeyoung Kim, Anh Totti Nguyen (2025). B-score: Detecting biases in large language models using response history. *Forty-Second International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2025)*. [paper | project website]

[C.2] Thao Do, Dinh Phu Tran, An Vo, Daeyoung Kim (2025). Reference-Based Post-OCR Processing with LLM for Precise Diacritic Text in Historical Document Recognition. *Annual AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI 2025)*. [paper | code | dataset]

[C.3] An Vo, Ngoc Hoang Luong (2024). Efficient Multi-Objective Neural Architecture Search via Pareto Dominance-based Novelty Search. *Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO 2024)*. [paper | code]

[C.4] Nhat Minh Le*, An Vo*, Ngoc Hoang Luong (2024). Zero-Cost Proxy-Based Hierarchical Initialization for Evolutionary Neural Architecture Search. *IEEE Congress on Evolutionary Computation (CEC 2024)*. [paper]

[C.5] Khoa Huu Tran, Luc Truong, An Vo, Ngoc Hoang Luong (2023). Accelerating Gene-pool Optimal Mixing Evolutionary Algorithm for Neural Architecture Search with Synaptic Flow. *Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Companion Conference (GECCO Companion 2023)*. [paper | code]

[C.6] An Vo, Tan Ngoc Pham, Van Bich Nguyen, Ngoc Hoang Luong (2022). Training-Free Multi-Objective and Many-Objective Evolutionary Neural Architecture Search with Synaptic Flow. *International Symposium on Information and Communication Technology (SoICT 2022)*. **Best Paper Award**. [paper | code]

Journal papers

[J.1] An Vo, Nhat Minh Le, Ngoc Hoang Luong (2026). Lightweight Multi-Objective and Many-Objective Problem Formulations for Evolutionary Neural Architecture Search with the Training-Free Performance Metric Synaptic Flow. *SN Computer Science*. [paper | code]

[J.2] Ngoc Hoang Luong, Quan Minh Phan, An Vo, Tan Ngoc Pham, Dzung Tri Bui (2024). Lightweight Multi-Objective Evolutionary Neural Architecture Search with Low-Cost Proxy Metrics. *Information Sciences*. [paper | code]

[J.3] An Vo, Tan Ngoc Pham, Van Bich Nguyen, Ngoc Hoang Luong (2023). Efficient Multi-Objective Neural Architecture Search via Tree Search with Training-Free Metrics. *Informatica*. [paper | code]

Preprint/Under review

[P.1] An Vo*, Khai-Nguyen Nguyen*, Mohammad Reza Taesiri, Vy Tuong Dang, Anh Totti Nguyen†, Daeyoung Kim† (2025). Vision Language Models are Biased. *Under review*. [paper | project website]

[P.2] Vy Tuong Dang*, An Vo*, Emilio Villa-Cueva, Quang Tau, Duc Dm, Thamar Solorio, Daeyoung Kim (2025). VMMU: A Vietnamese Multitask Multimodal Understanding and Reasoning Benchmark *Under review*. [paper | project website]

[P.3] Thao Do, Dinh Phu Tran, An Vo, Seon Kwon Kim, Daeyoung Kim (2025). LooComp: Leverage Leave-One-Out Strategy to Encoder-only Transformer for Efficient Query-aware Context Compression. *Under review*.

[P.4] Gabriel Manalu, An Vo, Duc Dm, Quang Tau, Nguyen Dinh Son, Minh Son Hoang, Hyeontaek Hwang, Jaesung Lee, Hyojin Choi, Tuan Phong Tran, Daeyoung Kim (2025). RADBench: Evaluating Foundation VLMs for Corner Case Description on A Comprehensive Dataset. *Under review*.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

In M.S. Program

- 2025: Hyundai CMK Global Scholarship of Excellence (for ICML 2025 paper acceptance) – $2200
- 2025: Hyundai CMK International Symposium Scholarship (ICML 2025 travel grant) – $1500
- 2025: Cohere Labs Research Grant (with Vy Tuong Dang) – $2,000
- 2025: Together AI Research Grant – $150
- 2024: OpenAI Research Grant – $2,500
- 2024: Cohere For AI Research Grant – $1,000
- 2024–2026: KAIST Fellowship – $22,000 (estimated total value)
- 2024–2026: Hyundai Chung-Mong Koo Global Scholarship – $45,000 (estimated total value)

In B.S. Program

- 2022–2023: Incentive for Scientific Publications – $100
- 2019–2023: University of Information Technology, VNU-HCM Merit Scholarships – $3,600 (estimated total value)

In High School

- 2016–2019: Incentive for Participation and Awards in High School Olympiads – $1,000 (estimated total value)

Selected Honors and Awards

In B.S. Program

- 2023: **Valedictorian** of the B.S. Program
- 2023: Excellent Graduate of the B.S. Program
- 2022: **Best Paper Award** at the International Symposium on Information and Communication Technology (SoICT)
- 2022: Ho Chi Minh City Outstanding Youth
- 2022: Award for Outstanding Scientific Research Publications
- 2019: Top 100 Student Leaders of Ho Chi Minh City
- 2019–2023: Recognized for Excellence in Academics and Personal Development

In High School

- 2019: Consolation Prize in the Provincial Science and Engineering Fair
- 2018: First Prize in the Provincial Youth Informatics Competition
- 2018: First Prize in the Provincial English-Language Science and Engineering Competition in Informatics
- 2018–2019: Competed in the National Olympiad in Informatics (VOI) x2
- 2017–2018: Second Prize in the Provincial Olympiad in Informatics x2
- 2017: Bronze Medal in the Summer Olympiad in the Mekong Delta in Informatics
- 2017: Bronze Medal in the April 30th Olympiad in Informatics
- 2017: Consolation Prize in the Provincial Physics Olympiad via Internet

Selected Press Coverage

In B.S. Program

- 2024: UIT News – Recipient of Master's Scholarship at Top Korean Research Institute: "Choosing UIT was my crucial and unforgettable turning point"
- 2024: UIT Cafe – "Is Studying Abroad the Ultimate Destination?" (in Vietnamese)
- 2023: **Tien Phong** – Valedictorian Graduating with Excellence and Passion for Science (in Vietnamese)
- 2023: **Thanh Nien** – The Valedictorian Who Persisted in Academia to 'Gain Freedom in Will and Time' (in Vietnamese)
- 2023: UIT News – Meet the Computer Science Student with Outstanding Achievements (in Vietnamese)
- 2023: **Dan Tri** – Meager Salary, Drowning in Debt – A Female Teacher Dreams of Earning Billions in Australia (in Vietnamese)
- 2023: **Tuoi Tre** – Ho Chi Minh City Leaders Dialogue with Outstanding Students: Opening Space for Gen Z Officials (in Vietnamese)
- 2023: **VnExpress** – Students Offer Solutions for Ho Chi Minh City to Attract Talent (in Vietnamese)
- 2022: **Tien Phong** – Two Students Receive 'Best Paper Award' at International Conference on ICT (in Vietnamese)
- 2022: **Tuoi Tre** – Applying AI to History Education (in Vietnamese)

In High School

- 2018: Dat Mui – 108 Students Compete in the Provincial Youth Informatics Competition (in Vietnamese)

Mentoring

Undergraduate Students at University of Information Technology, Vietnam National University–Ho Chi Minh City

- **Khoa Huu Tran** (Oct 2022 – Jan 2024) – GECCO Late-Breaking Abstract Paper
- **Luc Truong** (Oct 2022 – Jan 2024) – GECCO Late-Breaking Abstract Paper
- **Minh Le** (Oct 2022 – Feb 2023) – IEEE CEC Paper
- **Vy Tuong Dang** (Dec 2021 – Present) – KAIST Scholarship for M.S. Program (Full Tuition Fee & Stipend) & ViExam

Professional Service

- **Conference Reviewer/Program Committee**: AAAI 2026, BMVC 2025, IEEE CEC 2024, IEEE CEC 2025, IJCNN 2025
- **Journal Reviewer**: IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation, IEEE Transactions on Industrial Informatics, IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man and Cybernetics: Systems

Talks

- 2024: **AutoID Labs Asia Workshop 2024** – Efficient Multi-Objective Neural Architecture Search via Pareto Dominance-based Novelty Search.
- 2022: **SoICT 2022** – Training-Free Multi-Objective and Many-Objective Evolutionary Neural Architecture Search with Synaptic Flow.
- 2022: **Vietnam Youth Academy** – University Learning Methods in the Context of Digital Transformation
- 2022: **Ho Chi Minh City Youth Symposium Proud of Vietnamese History** – Applying AI in History Education

Selected Certificates

- 2025: IELTS 7.0 Overall (Exam date: 11 Oct 2025)
- 2023: TOEIC 880 (Exam date: 04 Mar 2023)
- 2021: Computational Thinking for Problem Solving – University of Pennsylvania, Coursera
- 2021: Linear Algebra for Machine Learning and Data Science – DeepLearning.AI, Coursera
- 2021: Python for Data Science and AI – IBM, Coursera
- 2021: Improving Deep Neural Networks: Hyperparameter Tuning, Regularization and Optimization – DeepLearning.AI, Coursera
- 2021: Neural Networks and Deep Learning – DeepLearning.AI, Coursera
- 2021: Fundamentals of Reinforcement Learning – University of Alberta, Coursera
- 2021: Sample-based Learning Methods – University of Alberta, Coursera
- 2020: How Google Does Machine Learning – Google Cloud, Coursera
- 2020: What is Data Science? – IBM, Coursera
- 2020: Basic Statistics – University of Amsterdam, Coursera
- 2020: Machine Learning – Andrew Ng, Stanford University, Coursera

References

Dr. Anh Totti Nguyen
Associate Professor at Auburn University
anh.ng8 at gmail.com

Dr. Daeyoung Kim
Full Professor at KAIST
kimd at kaist.ac.kr

Dr. Mohammad Reza Taesiri
Research Scientist at EA SPORTS Vancouver
mtaesiri at gmail.com

Dr. Ngoc Hoang Luong
Lecturer & Head of AI Department of UIT,
Vietnam National University HCMC (VNU-HCM)
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